

**A Conference for Federal Regulatory Professionals**  
EPA Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation

**Geographic location or area of activity:** The conference was held in Washington, DC, but it was open to federal regulatory professionals nationwide.

**Description of activity:** EPA sponsored a conference in August 2007, bringing together more than 130 regulatory professionals representing over 20 federal agencies. The event provided a forum for federal agencies to share best practices that can improve the future of regulatory development. Throughout the two-day event, participants exchanged best practices, identified needs and offered creative ideas for improving regulatory development.

Following opening remarks, the conference started with a “town hall” discussion with three leading experts in regulatory development. The agenda continued with sessions on agency processes, stakeholder involvement, negotiated rulemaking, technology for addressing public comments, collaborative programs, and efficiency in regulatory development. After each session, roundtable discussions provided the opportunity for participants to engage in an in-depth question/answer period with each presenter. The conference closed with an informal session where participants shared parting thoughts and voted on key themes and action items identified during the conference.

EPA will use the information gathered to learn more about what tools and technologies various agencies use to track and process their regulations.

**Interagency partners:** Congressional Research Service, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration and Federal Transit Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration, Government Accountability Office, Office of Management and Budget and the Small Business Administration

**Local partners:** City of Gloucester, MA and the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada